

R E M A R K S

Careful review and examination of the subject application are noted and appreciated.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

The rejection of claims 1-3 and 10-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Vercesi '449 has been obviated by appropriate amendment and should be withdrawn. Although Applicants' representative does not necessarily agree with the Examiner's interpretation of the reference as it relates to several of the dependent claims, the claims have been amended to advance prosecution.

The allowable matter of claim 8 has been incorporated into claim 1. The allowable matter of claim 18 has been incorporated into claim 11. Matter similar to the allowable matter of claim 8 has been incorporated into claim 10.

As such, the presently claimed invention is fully patentable over the cited reference and the rejection should be allowable.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

The rejection of claims 4 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Vercesi '449 has been obviated by appropriate amendment and should be withdrawn. Claims 4 and 14

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depend from independent claims 1 and 10, which are now believed to be allowable.

As such, the presently claimed invention is fully patentable over the cited references and the rejection should be withdrawn.

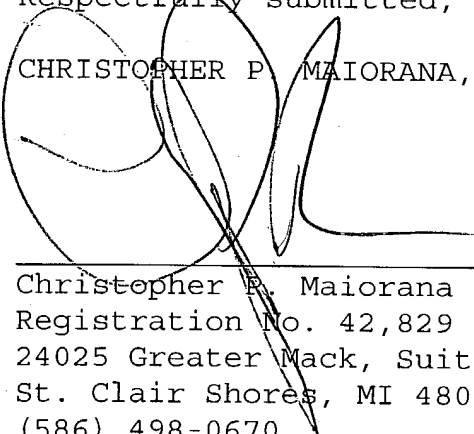
Accordingly, the present application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action by the Examiner is respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is, respectfully invited to call the Applicants' representative should it be deemed beneficial to further advance prosecution of the application.

If any additional fees are due, please charge our office Account No. 50-0541.

Respectfully submitted,

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